Amendments to the specification:

Please insert the following on page 1 before the first line:

--This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/037,531 filed March 10, 1998.--

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 3, between lines 4 and 5:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the multiple cloning site of the cloning vector pRPA-RD-195.

Figure 2 shows a diagram of the expression cassette OTP-HPPD in plasmid pRPA-RD-1002, which expression cassette comprises the maize H3C4 histone promoter combined with the 5' untranslated region and the first intron of the rice actin gene, the coding region OTP-HPPD and the NOS polyadenylation site.

Figure 3 shows a diagram of a portion of the plasmid pRPA-RD-109 which contains the β-glucuronidase (GUS) gene of *E. coli* controlled by the maize H3C4 histone promoter combined with the 5' untranslated region and the first intron of the rice actin gene and the NOS polyadenylation site.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 14-19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The plasmid pRPA-RD-195 is a derivative of the plasmid pUC-19 which contains a modified multiple cloning site. The complementary oligonucleotides 1 and 2 below are hybridized at 65 C for 5 minutes, followed by a slow cooling down to 30 C over 30 minutes:

Oligo 4: 5' AGGGCCCCCT AGGGTTTAAA CGGCCAGTCA
GGCCGAATTC GAGCTCGGTA CCCGGGGATC CTCTAGAGTC
GACCTGCAGG CATGC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 4)

Oligo 5: 5' CCCTGAACCA GGCTCGAGGG CGCGCCTTAA TTAAAAGCTT
GCATGCCTGC AGGTCGACTC TAGAGG 3'
(SEQ ID NO: 5)--